

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

### LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of cleaning a contaminated material which comprises a solid material which is contaminated with a hydrocarbon, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) contacting the contaminated material with a surface active agent thereby to form a first mixture including said contaminated material and said surface active agent;

(B) contacting said first mixture with a carrier formulation to prepare a second mixture wherein said carrier formulation is arranged to interact with at least one of said surface active agent and/or said hydrocarbon, wherein said carrier formulation includes a carrier which comprises a first polymeric material that includes hydroxy groups pendent from a polymeric chain;

(C) separating said solid material in said second mixture from other components in the second mixture, wherein said solid material which is separated contains a lower level of said hydrocarbon compared to that in said contaminated material contacted in step (A).

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said contaminated material contacted in the method comprises drill cuttings produced when drilling for oil or gas.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said contaminated material is contaminated with at least one of a drilling fluid and/or with petroleum.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said contaminated material comprises at least 5wt% of fluidic hydrocarbon(s).

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said contaminated material comprises at least 5wt% of oil.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein, in the method, a mass of said contaminated material is selected and contacted with said surfactant and the ratio of the wt% of said mass to the wt% of said surfactant is at least 10:1 and is less than 200:1.

7. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said surface active agent includes a hydrophobic moiety which has an aromatic ring system.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said surface active agent includes an hydrophilic moiety.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said surface active agent is an anionic surfactant.

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said surface active agent is wholly soluble in oil of the type contaminating the solid material at 25°C.

11. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said contaminated material contacted in step (A) comprises 10 to 20wt% of hydrocarbon contaminant and 80 to 90wt% of drill cuttings.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said first mixture contacted in step (B) comprises 100 parts by weight (pbw) of solid material, 10 to 20pbw of hydrocarbon(s); up to 5pbw of surface active agents; and up to 10pbw water.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said carrier formulation contacted with said first mixture in step (B) includes a carrier which is arranged to interact with a hydrophilic moiety of said surface active material.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said carrier includes a polar moiety.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said carrier is a first polymeric material which includes a multiplicity of cationic moieties.

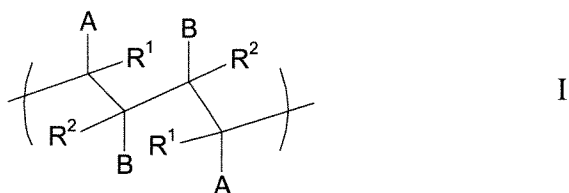
16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said carrier comprises a first polymeric material which incorporates a polyvinyl alcohol moiety.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said carrier formulation is aqueous and includes at least 85wt% of water.

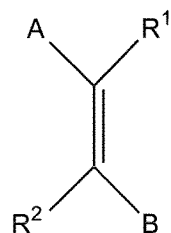
19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said carrier formulation comprises a said first polymeric material which comprises a second polymeric material cross-linked by a third polymeric material, wherein said third polymeric material comprises:

(i) a third polymeric material having a repeat unit of formula



wherein A and B are the same or different, are selected from optionally-substituted aromatic and heteroaromatic groups and at least one comprises a relatively polar atom or group and  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  independently comprise relatively non-polar atoms or groups; or

(ii) a third polymeric material prepared or preparable by providing a compound of general formula



wherein A, B, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are as described above, in an aqueous solvent and causing the groups C=C in said compound to react with one another to form said third polymeric material.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein said third and second polymeric materials are reacted to form said first polymeric material prior to contact with said contaminated material.

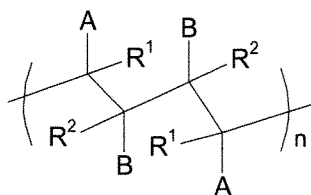
21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein, prior to step (B), said method comprises selecting a said third polymer material; selecting a second polymeric material which includes a functional group which is able to react in the presence of a third polymeric material to form said first polymeric material; and causing the formation of said first polymeric material by a reaction involving said third and second polymeric materials.

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the ratio of the wt% of said third polymeric material to the wt% of said second polymeric material selected for preparation of said first polymeric material is less than 0.1 and is at least 0.01.

23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein one of A or B represents an optionally-substituted aromatic group and the other one represents an optionally-substituted heteroaromatic group.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently selected from a hydrogen atom or an optionally-substituted alkyl group.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said third polymeric material is of formula:



wherein n is an integer.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said second polymeric compound is selected from optionally-substituted polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl acetate and polyalkylene glycols.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein said second polymeric material includes at least one vinyl alcohol/vinyl acetate copolymer.

28. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein in step (B) said second mixture is mixed to effect intimate contact between the components therein.

29. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~28~~1, wherein step (C) includes allowing solid material to settle.

30. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein after step (B) and before step (C), said second mixture is contacted with ~~further~~ water.

31. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~29~~1, wherein after step (C) the method comprises, in a step (D), separating components which remain in said second mixture from one another.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein in step (D), said carrier is caused to form a precipitate.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) A method of cleaning a contaminated material comprising a solid material contaminated with a hydrocarbon, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) contacting the contaminated material with a surface active agent to form a first mixture including said contaminated material and said surface active agent;

(B) contacting said first mixture with a carrier formulation to prepare a second mixture, wherein said carrier formulation is arranged to interact with at least one of said surface active agent and said hydrocarbon, said carrier formulation comprising a polyvinyl alcohol having a molecular weight (Mn) of at least 10,000 and less than 500,000 and greater than 65% of vinyl alcohol moieties; and

(C) separating said solid material in said second mixture from other components in the second mixture, wherein said solid material which is separated contains a lower level of said hydrocarbon compared to that in said contaminated material contacted in step (A).

37. (New) A method of cleaning a contaminated material which comprises a solid material contaminated with a hydrocarbon, the method comprising the steps of:

(A) contacting the contaminated material with a surface active agent to form a first mixture including said contaminated material and said surface active agent, wherein said surface active agent is an anionic surfactant;

(B) contacting said first mixture with a carrier formulation to prepare a second mixture, wherein said carrier formulation is arranged to interact with at least one of said surface active agent and said hydrocarbon, said carrier formulation comprising a polyvinyl alcohol having a molecular weight (Mn) of at least 10,000 and less than 500,000 and greater than 65% of vinyl alcohol moieties; and

(C) separating said solid material in said second mixture from other components in the second mixture, wherein said solid material which is separated contains a lower level of said hydrocarbon compared to that in said contaminated material contacted in step (A).